

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) An escalator, comprising a balustrade, a balustrade base, steps for the transportation of persons and objects, a handrail construction with a handrail arranged on the balustrade, the balustrade having a reversing zone wherein a direction of travel of the handrail is reversed by means of a drivable reversing sheave having a periphery in driving contact with the handrail, and a handrail-drive having means for driving the reversing sheave and comprising a drive-wheel in contact with the reversing sheave periphery peripherally.

2. (currently amended) The escalator according to claim 1, wherein ~~the handrail-drive has a drive-wheel that drives the reversing sheave~~, the drive-wheel ~~being~~ is a friction wheel or a gearwheel.

3. (previously presented) The escalator according to claim 2, wherein the handrail drive is arranged in the balustrade base and has a controllable motor as a drive for the drive-wheel.

4. (previously presented) The escalator according to claim 2, further comprising a driving main shaft coupled to the drive-wheel and to a step-chain.

5. (previously presented) The escalator according to claim 2, wherein the drive-wheel has a friction surface in a form of a smooth surface and the reversing sheave has a friction surface in a form of a knurled surface.

6. (previously presented) The escalator according to claim 2, wherein the drive-wheel has spur toothing for engaging the reversing sheave.

7. (original) The escalator according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising supporting cheeks for the reversing sheave having dark tinting adjacent a peripheral zone of the reversing sheave.